

SECRETS OF THE SECRET SERVICE

CHIEF WILKIE TAKES PUBLIC INTO HIS CONFIDENCE



The only pull that can land a man in the employ of the United States secret service is that of successfully passing the preliminary examination, submitting to a personal interview with Chief Wilkie and showing his nerve and ability during a month of testing out in the real business of detective work for Uncle Sam.

Here is the civil service slip that must first be filled out:

"Sec. 79. Secret Service.—Application for positions in the secret service of the treasury department should forward, addressed to the secretary of the treasury and marked 'personal,' form 304, properly executed, and such evidence as to their experience, training, qualifications and personal characteristics as they may be able to obtain, without any reference to their political or religious affiliations, which may be considered as proof of their fitness for employment in this service. This examination shall be confined to experience and personal fitness. Applicants should give the names and addresses of the persons to whom they refer as to their character and qualifications for employment in this service."

If the answers are satisfactory the next test of the applicant is made and he is permitted a personal interview with Chief Wilkie, who is able after a few minutes' conversation to size up a man's possibilities pretty accurately. If he seems to be a likely man he is put on the eligible list, and when the appointment division certifies him he is assigned a 30-day try-out in actual service in the 26 districts into which the United States is divided. If the man makes good he goes on the rolls permanently, and in the course of his career there is no telling what great and important cases he may be asked to help unravel.

Chief Wilkie is proud of the character of the men he has under him. In speaking concerning the matter he said:

"The men of our service are gathered from greatly differing sources. We have college graduates, mostly the sons of criminal lawyers, who seem to have the appetite of their fathers bred in the bone; musicians, stenographers, linguists, bank clerks, identification experts, telegraph operators, a commissioned officer of the army, and non-commissioned or petty officers of

both the army and navy, newspaper men, a couple of sheriffs, one or two wardens and in one case an ex-mayor.

"While all of our men must measure up to a certain standard, I believe experience has shown that our best operators are those who have done work in the claims department of a railroad or performed similar duties for a life insurance company.

"You see, what is needed in the secret service is initiative and ability to look far ahead and take into account all possibilities. It requires no little intelligence to work up a case without putting your foot into it and to weave together the strands so that they can be presented as legal evidence. The former experience of the railroad and insurance men who have come into the service makes them expert in such matters.

"There have been two or three instances in which failure to exercise a little caution has upset all the well-laid plans of the bureau. There was the case of Robyns out in Omaha, at the time of the Spanish war. To understand it you must know that the department takes the ground that we are organized for the suppression of counterfeit money, we shall not, even in the interests of justice, have a hand in its making or its floating. Well, this Robyns trouble came along when, in addition to our regular work, we had our hands pretty full with looking after Spanish spies and other secret matters connected with the war.

"Robyns was a German, and what we needed in his business was a man who could speak the language. I picked up a young fellow who could do this, and sent him out west. He wasn't the kind of operator I wanted, but he was the best I could get at the time. He did very well for awhile—got in with Robyns, saw him make his spurious dollars and all that sort of thing—but one day he tripped. Robyns wanted some acid and asked our man to buy it. The operator consented, and when his report reached the office he was recalled and the case against Robyns dropped. We could not afford to make the government's agents participants criminals. Three months later, however, we juggled Robyns on an entirely new charge.

"By the way," Chief Wilkie observed, as a new angle of thought struck him, "did you know that

sleight-of-hand is figuring more and more in the operations of the secret service? I am trying to get the art down to a thoroughly practical working basis, and so far have had good results. Yes, it's a little hobby of mine—this 'hand is quicker than the eye' business—but I believe I have several men in this bureau who have me beaten at it.

"One of our men who is pretty handy with his fingers was trying to land a gang of counterfeiters and succeeded in establishing friendly relations with the bunch. Every newcomer is naturally looked upon with suspicion until he commits some overt act, and in this instance the gang determined to have a showdown. In floating bad money each man is given so much of it and keeps half of the good money he gets hold of, turning the remainder in to the makers. The operator was given a lot of one-dollar imitations and told to get rid of them, another of the gang going along to see that he made good. Each time he entered a store to make a small purchase, as the real crook thought, he came out with the proper change. But for some reason his companion was not satisfied and adopted the policy of entering the place with him, watching him closely as he bought. It was a pretty trying situation, but our man managed to do the sleight-of-hand trick so well that good American dollars found their way to the cash drawer, while the 'phony' ones disappeared somewhere on his person, as evidence against the counterfeiters.

"Shadowing and roping," said Chief Wilkie, "may seem mighty easy to an outsider; this thing of merely following a man, but any one who has ever turned his hand seriously to it will tell a different story. It's hardly putting it too strongly to say that it is an art in itself.

"Roping is accompanied by more danger than shadowing. The term embraces worming oneself into the acquaintance of a gang for the purpose of effecting arrests. Of course a man's life isn't worth much if he's caught at such a game and has the goods on those whose confidence he has won.

Petroleum for European Locomotives.

Consul General Norman Hutchinson of Bucharest reports that several high officials of the Austrian railways have arrived in Roumania for the purpose of studying the question of petroleum as a railway locomotive combustible. The consul general adds:

"If it is found that the use of petroleum as a locomotive combustible is working satisfactorily upon the Roumanian railways, it is intended to introduce the use of petroleum upon the Austrian railways.

"It appears to the writer that petroleum seems to answer the purposes for the making of sufficient steam, and does away with coal dust and cinders; on the other hand, the odor of the smoke issuing from the locomotives is offensive to many persons, while others consider it more or less healthy."

These Hard Times.

An economically-minded citizen stopped in a hardware store and asked:

"How much are children's bathtubs?"

"From three dollars up," responded the clerk.

"Whew!" whistled the customer "Guess we will have to keep on washing the baby in the coal-scuttle."—Judge.

The Start.

"My daughter is going to be an actress. She's beginning at the bottom of the ladder and is going to work up."

"Did she join a chorus?"

"No, she hasn't got that far yet. She's just got her job as a hotel waitress."—Detroit Free Press.

The Only Way.

A man who wanted to be known for his taking ways must first learn to take advice and a joke.—Detroit Free Press.

Night Sweats & Cough.

E. W. Walton, Condr. S. P. Ry., 717 Van Ness St., San Antonio, Tex., writes: "During the summer and fall of 1902, my annoyance from catarrh reached that stage where it was actual misery and developed alarming symptoms, such as a very deep-seated cough, night sweats, and pains in the head and chest. I experimented with several so-called remedies before I finally decided to take a thorough course of Peruna.

"Two of my friends had gone so far as to inform me that the thing for me to do was to resign my position and seek a higher, more congenial climate. Everyone thought I had consumption and I was not expected to live very long.

"Having procured some Peruna, I decided to give it a thorough test and applied myself assiduously to the task of taking it, as per instructions, in due meantime.

"The effects were soon apparent, all alarming symptoms disappeared and my general health became fully as good as it had ever been in my life.

"I have resorted to the use of Peruna on two or three occasions since that time to cure myself of bad colds."

Cheerful, Anyhow.

"Hello, sport; I haven't seen you for 20 years. How are you getting on?"

"Oh, I'm a multi-millionaire. And you?"

"Oh, I'm a multi-failure."

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

WALTON, KIRKMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

More Refined.

Visitor—You say Bill was shot? Cowboy—Well, we call it "death from lead poisoning."—St. Louis Times.

Man and Beast Alike.

Only those who have suffered the agony of eye afflictions can appreciate the blessing to humanity in Dr. Mitchell's famous Eye Salve. Introduced in this region as far back as 1849 it is found to-day in all well regulated homes hereabouts. Not alone the eyes of man but those of the dumb animals have enjoyed its comforts. Mitchell's Eye Salve. Sold everywhere. Price 25c.

Most wild things are indigenous to the soil, yet lots of men waste time in sowing wild oats.



If afflicted with sore eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water